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PROGRAMME QUESTIONS AND RELATED MATTERS

Overall review of the statistical work of international organizations in statistics

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report refers to an overall review of the statistical activities of the United Nations system and other international organizations ... 1993 and 1994, entitled "Output and activities of the international organizations in selected areas of statistics", which is before the Commission as a background document.

2. Additional information on the work of the organizations is contained in other reports that are before the Commission.

3. The following organs, organizations and agencies have been included in the report: Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat (UNSTAT), Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Universal Postal Union (UPU), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO),

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General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), World Tourism Organization (WTO) and Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI).

4. The overall review has been structured on a subject-matter basis. The classification used is the Administrative Committee on Coordination Programme Classification, which is broadly in use in the United Nations system for reporting on programmes on a system-wide basis.

5. All seminars, workshops, household surveys, and training and technical cooperation missions were placed under the heading "Statistical capacity-building and training", except where it was clear that a seminar or workshop was aimed at methodological development, in which case it was placed under the relevant subject-matter heading. In cases where the objective was not clear, the item was placed under the heading "Statistical capacity-building and training". All technical cooperation activities were placed under the heading "Statistical capacity-building and training" and not under the particular subject-matter heading. Meetings of regional conferences of statisticians, meetings of the governing statistical bodies of specialized agencies and other similar meetings were also placed under the heading "Statistical capacity-building and training".

6. Three special groupings were created for the following functional areas: "Classifications", "Technological development and databases", and "Coordination".

7. The overall review is selective: it provides information on those outputs and activities that organizations considered the most important in their overall work during the period covered. It does not provide a comprehensive statement of outputs and activities under each heading.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

8. The Commission may wish to comment on the work carried out in the various subject areas by international organizations during the period under review. The Commission may also wish to provide additional guidance on the coverage and focus of the report that it might prefer in the future so as to better meet the needs of the Commission.